



The Road to Getting Your Montana Driver License

If you're under age 18 and getting your driver license for the first time, here's what you need to do

Starting off in the Right Direction

Learning to Drive? Montana's teen driving law is designed to keep you safe in the process. The fact is young drivers are most likely to crash within the first six months of getting a license – and nobody wants to see that happen.

The GDL- Graduated Driver License law lets you ease into driving with plenty of time for practice so you can learn how to do it right – without wrapping yourself around a tree. Parents/Legal Guardians drive with you during the first six months.

Enroll in Driver Education after age 14 ½ or wait until you are 16 years old to take the written test for your Instruction Permit/Learner License.

GDL Step One

Get your Instruction Permit/Learner License - You must pass the vision and written tests and have your permit for at least six months

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Practice,* Practice, Practice

Seriously- You must be able to show you have at least 50 hours of supervised driving practice – 10 hours must be at night
* With your Parent/Legal Guardian

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And Practice some more!

Your Instruction Permit is valid for one year

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GDL Step Two Entering Restricted Zone

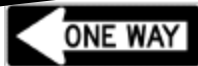
YOU'RE OFF AND ROLLING ON YOUR OWN. But there are still some restrictions designed to keep you safe (and alive) during your crucial first year of licensed driving. Seat belts are required - for everyone - all the time.

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The Big Test

Pass the Driving Test and get your GDL Restricted License (this is where all that practice pays off)

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Covering New Territory

The **First Six Months** after you get your GDL Restricted License you can drive with only **One Passenger** who isn't a family member.

Why? You still need time to get used to driving solo, without a lot of distractions. It's hard to focus on the road if your friends are bugging you to change the music or stop and get nachos. For right now, concentrate on getting into safe driving habits.

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Getting Comfortable

The **Second Six Months** after you get your GDL Restricted License you can drive with **up to 3 Passengers** who are not family members.

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Makes sense. At this point you're still getting comfortable handling the car safely and following traffic rules. Besides- how big is your car anyway?



The Home Stretch

For the first year, you can't drive between 11:00 P.M. and 5:00 a.m. - unless it's an emergency or you're traveling to school, church, work or farm activities. The reason for this is simple. As a young driver, your greatest risk of being involved in a fatal or injury crash is in the dark and at night.

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All the GDL restrictions are only for the first year or until you turn age 18, whichever comes first. Then you're off and driving in the real world.

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Remember to play it smart. There are a lot of cars out there. So drive safely – for life.



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
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